



THE CHICKADEE

Newsletter of the New Haven Bird Club

December 2010

2010-11 CALENDAR

(See inside for details)

November 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011 **NHBC 17th Annual Winter Feeder Survey**

Saturday, December 18, 2010 **111th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count**

Wednesday, January 5, 2011, 9:30 am (Note later start time)
First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport

Thursday, January 13, 2011 **Julian Hough**
The Scilly Isles: Searching for the "Mega" Rarities

Sunday, January 16, 2011, 7:30 am **Stratford/Milford Birding Tour**

Saturday, January 29, 2011, 8:00 am **Hammonasset State Park, Madison**

Wednesday, February 2, 2011, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison**

Thursday, February 10, 2011 **J. Alan Clark**
Penguins in Peril: How Climate Change Impacts Penguins

Saturday, February 12, 2011, 8:00 am **Connecticut River Valley and Eastern Shore**

Saturday, February 26, 2011, 7:00 am **Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast**

Wednesday, March 2, 2011, 8:00 am **First Wednesday Walk: Sikorsky Airport & Great Meadows, Stratford**

Thursday, March 10, 2011 **Gina Nichol**
Colombia's Avian Treasures

Sunday, March 20, 2011, 8:00 am **Southwest Connecticut Coast**

Wednesday, March 30, 7:00 pm **Birds in Words: *Wandering Through Winter* by Edwin Way Teale**

Please Consider...

If you indicated that you wanted to receive the newsletter electronically only, you will not receive a paper copy of this issue of the *Chickadee*. Others will receive a copy in the mail soon. The club encourages you to take the "email only" option to receive this newsletter as it saves paper and postage. If you would like to become an "email only" recipient, please contact the Membership Chair, Betty Zuraw, bzfeathers@sbcglobal.net or 860.632.1156.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Everyone thinks about birding as a relaxing fun thing to do. But no one realizes the perils of birding.

I still vividly remember my encounters with the Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*). I don't remember the order anymore, but once when I was checking to see if a Northern Goshawk was in a nest, it swooped out and perched in a tree on the trail's edge in front of me. This being the first encounter of this kind the bird was kind to me and let me inch by it (of course, I kept viewing it with my binoculars). When I thought I was far enough away and began walking at my normal pace I could hear it leave its perch and come toward me. Imagine a bird flying toward you with its beak open, talons down, and at a high speed. I had no chance to run so I waited until it was close enough and ducked. It swooped up into a tree, and since I was close to the edge of its territory I escaped.

The next year while double checking if the bird was in the nest it swooped at me again and landed in the same tree with me standing in the same place! But this time the bird was not kind to me and readied itself to attack. Realizing I had no chance to run straight out of its territory as last year I decided to run through the forest and play cat and mouse. I would run to a tree, it would swoop by me as I walked around the tree, I would entice it back and as it swooped by at eye level I would run to the next tree. And so it went until I was out of its territory. The good news is that I was able to determine the full extent of its territory.

Once unexpectedly while leading a bird walk in February a pair of N. Goshawks were already in the area and circled us. The N. Goshawk will only attack during nesting season so I knew we were safe, but I confess that my adrenalin rose.

My last encounter with the N. Goshawk was a few years ago when I went out to check to see if it returned to a particular nest and found a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) nesting instead. On my regular walks to watch the young grow up the N. Goshawk entered the picture and chased one of the young owls away from the nest. I froze at the bird's sight and waited until I heard the N. Goshawk further away before continuing my trek.

The only time I felt safe in the bird's presence was when Larry Fisher banded the bird one year. While inspecting the area for

(continued on next page.)

New Haven Bird Club - 2010 - 2011

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Maria Stockmal m.stockmal@snet.net	203.488.3876
<i>Vice President</i>	Mike Horn mfhorn@att.net	203.288.1891
<i>Treasurer</i>	Gary Lemmon lemmon@snet.net	203.488.7813
<i>Secretary</i>	Judy Moore judymoore@optonline.net	203.387.4582

BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Audubon CT Liaison</i>	Pat Leahy ptjleahy@yahoo.com	203.393.2427
<i>Conservation Chair</i>	Bill Batsford william.batsford@yale.edu	203.787.1642
<i>Education Chair</i>	Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe jubilee832001@yahoo.com	203.630.9640
<i>Hospitality Chair</i>	Stacy Hanks flybird@optonline.net	203.283.3898
<i>Indoor Programs</i>	Kris Johnson krisjohnson99@snet.net	203.288.3087
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Richard Becker rlbecker@songstar.org	203.323.0233
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	203.288.0621
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Betty Zuraw bzfeathers@sbcglobal.net	860.632.1156
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna Batsford dbatsford@footeschool.org	203.787.1642
<i>Nominating Chair</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Outdoor Programs</i>	Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net	203.389.6508
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	Larry Bausher lpbausher@comcast.net	203.389.5918

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

<i>The BIG SIT!®</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Christmas Bird Count</i>	Chris Loscalzo closcalz@optonline.net	203.389.6508
<i>Email List</i>	Ralph Amodei ramodei@att.net	203.467.9515
<i>Hawk Watch</i>	Steve Mayo smayo@sikorsky.com	203.393.0694
<i>Lighthouse Point Historian</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Summer Bird Count</i>	Steve Mayo smayo@sikorsky.com	203.393.0694
<i>Web Master</i>	John Triana jtriana1@sbcglobal.net	203.758.7203
<i>Winter Feeder Survey</i>	Peter Vitali vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net	203.288.0621
<i>Yearbook</i>	Betty Zuraw bzfeathers@sbcglobal.net	860.632.1156

The NHBC website is www.newhavenbirdclub.org

President's Message (Continued from previous page)

the best way to set up banding nets it came after us a few times. I still remember telling Larry that I hear the bird coming behind me and he didn't believe me. I turned around and not having any time held my leafed branch above my head until the bird hit it and swooped away. Larry commented that he never saw that happen before.

These experiences are a far cry from the first time Larry, I, and a ranger from the Ansonia Nature Center went out looking for Great Horned Owls and a N. Goshawk flew overhead and the ranger ducked under a bush. I should have taken the hint.

One can encounter other perils either when bird watching, studying birds, or monitoring birds. While monitoring Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) I have been attacked and pooped on by nesting Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*) and nesting Black Skimmers (*Rynchops niger*). After a few years I got used to it. I have had to fight my way through thorns, mud and muck, jump over small streams, endure gale winds or scorching heat, an occasional fall here and there, climbing hills with aching legs, freezing fingers, ears, and toes, and, of course, let's not forget the hissing of the Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) and maybe an occasional nip when it is protecting its young.

If you are a birder you ignore these things and I don't think I need to tell you why.

--Maria Stockmal

FROM THE BOARD

The New Haven Bird Club board is in the process of reviewing its by-laws and officer and committee descriptions. We anticipate a few changes in the by-laws and a vote for acceptance to take place at the April 2011 annual meeting. Officers include: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Once upon a time (1998) there was a Corresponding Secretary.

Current committees include: Membership, Indoor Program, Outdoor Program, Newsletter, Connecticut Audubon Council Representative, Hospitality, Publicity, Nominating Committee, Education, and Conservation

Special Activities include: Breeding Bird Census (June), Hawk Watch, Christmas Bird Count, NHBC Feeder Survey, NHBC Big Sit!, Yearbook, Children's Bird Walk

If anyone is interested in an officer, committee position, or in a special activity please see any of the board members or email.

Education Chair, Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, is working on a youth program that will include bird walks for young birders and badges for boy and girl scouts. If interested contact Corrie.

Board meetings are the fourth Thursday of the month unless otherwise stated.

The deadline for submissions to the February newsletter is January 27. Send to Donna Batsford dbatsford@footeschool.org

INDOOR PROGRAMS

Monthly indoor programs run September through April. They are held on the second Thursday of the month (except on holidays) in the Jones Auditorium at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven. The social half-hour at meetings begins at 7:00 pm; the meeting and program begin at 7:30 pm. The facility is wheelchair accessible with a ramp and elevator.

Directions: Go north 1.4 miles from the New Haven Green on Whitney Avenue, turn left onto Huntington Street. The entrance to the station is on the right, just past the first cross street.

Cancellation Policy: Inclement weather or another emergency may cancel a meeting. For cancellation notices, check TV channels WTNH (New Haven) and WFSB (Hartford). Cancellation notices will also be posted online on ctbird.

Thursday, January 13, 2011 — Julian Hough **The Scilly Isles: Searching for the “Mega” Rarities**

Originally from England and a lover of birds since at least the age of six, Julian spent all his spare time as a teen combing the British Isles for rare birds. Later he moved to America, settling first in Cape May to further pursue his interest in birds. Today he is, among many avian and other activities, a widely-published bird photographer and distinguished member of COA's Avian Records Committee. Who better to talk about the well-known British frenzy and passion for birding? He'll do so tonight with a series of slides of the Scilly Isles, the island group southwest of the UK. Long renowned for the number of rarities found there, these islands are a veritable birders' mecca, and especially during migration, as the birds arrive, so do the fanatically eager Brits. Along with rare—for them—vagrants from America (to us, the birds may be as common as Black-and-White Warbler and Red-eyed Vireo), the English twitchers might see Siberian strays such as Radde's Warbler and Olive-backed Pipit, as well as exotic European species such as Bee-eater and Hoopoe. Nowhere else on earth would anyone be able to see a Siberian Pallas's Warbler in the same bush as a Scarlet Tanager. A little frenzy might even be in order! For Brits, this is what the “Scilly Season” is all about.

Thursday, February 10, 2011 — J. Alan Clark **Penguins in Peril: How Climate Change Impacts Penguins**

While in New Zealand studying endangered species law and policy, Dr. Clark heard “the call of the wild.” The upshot: He left his law practice and began studying penguins, in particular: Magellanic Penguins. He is primarily interested in animal behavior and conservation biology, but by focusing on a group of well-known and beloved creatures, penguins, he hopes to achieve two goals. First, to boost the public's awareness and concern about climate change, and second, to help people appreciate some of the more subtle and even unexpected consequences of climate change's serious environmental challenges. Alan's extensive research on the Magellanic Penguin and numerous papers and lectures on this bird have given him a unique understanding of the perilous future of this species. Dr. Clark is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Fordham University. In addition to a law degree, he has graduate degrees in biology and natural resource policy. He is also an analyst of U.S. Endangered Species Act recovery plans and was lead author of the main summary paper.

Notice! A Bonus: Birder Tag Sale at the March Meeting!

Do you have a bird book you no longer use? Some avian art you no longer have room for? Bring the items to the Jan. and Feb. meetings; we'll sell them at the Mar. meeting. Items will be priced at \$1, \$5, and \$10. Proceeds go to NHBC's Conservation Fund.

Thursday, March 10, 2011— Gina Nichol **Colombia's Avian Treasures**

Colombia boasts more avian species than any other country in the world—at least 1,870, of which more than 73 species are endemics. Twenty-one of them were first discovered as recently as the past 24 years. For decades, security concerns kept Colombia's dazzling birding opportunities off-limits to visitors, but in recent times, recognizing the ecotourism goldmine in their midst, the Colombian government and military have addressed safety issues and have improved conditions so significantly that Colombia is now open for birding. Gina, having spent the better part of two months in 2009 birding Colombia, is working with the Colombian government and ornithological community to develop tours to this treasure house of birds. Tonight's program, generously illustrated with stunning photos, will reveal the avian riches of this once-forbidden land and give a first hand sense of what it is like to bird this remarkable destination.

BIRDS IN WORDS

Birds in Words is NHBC's book discussion group for people who like to read about their favorite hobby and then discuss the books at casual and thought-provoking sessions. Please feel free to attend any of the meetings. All are welcome! Meetings start at 7:00 pm at The Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Dr., Hamden. If you have any questions, please email or call Sara Zagorski: szagorski@daypitnery.com, 860.721.1814.

Directions: From Whitney Avenue northbound, turn left on Putnam Avenue, then right on Leeder Hill Drive. Park on the road and go to main desk, sign in, and get directions to the meeting room. Directions are also available at: <http://www.whitneycenter.com/directions.html>

Wednesday, March 30

The book we will be featuring is *Wandering Through Winter* by Edwin Way Teale. Mr. Teale and his wife Nellie used to live in Connecticut at Trail Wood in Hampton. This 168 acre sanctuary is now managed by the Connecticut Audubon Society. Teale won the 1966 Pulitzer Prize for *Wandering Through Winter: A Naturalist's Record of a 20,000-Mile Journey Through the North American Winter*, which is the account of the birds, animals, plants and people that Teale and his wife encountered on an automobile journey from the southwestern U.S. and parts of the Midwest, ending up in northeastern Maine.

FIELD TRIPS / OUTDOOR EVENTS

The New Haven Bird Club does not charge trip or leader fees for its outdoor programs, but participants are responsible for the cost of their food, transportation, and entrance fees (where charged), unless prior arrangements are made by the Club. Car-pooling is encouraged to avoid parking problems at some destinations and to promote conservation of our natural resources. All levels of birders are invited to all field trips, and every effort is made on all trips to help beginning birders. If you are new to birding or have any special needs, please be sure to let the leader know at the start of the field trip. You can check the Club's website too: <www.newhavenbirdclub.org> for trip information and watch for emails sent by the Club or contact trip leaders directly.

Cancellation Policy: Inclement weather or another emergency may cancel a field trip. Check the sources listed above or contact the leader of the trip directly if you have any questions about a possible cancellation.

November 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011 NHBC 17th Annual Winter Feeder Survey

This is a yearly census to determine the number and frequency of birds visiting feeders in the greater New Haven area. You are invited to watch and record the activity at your feeder at least once a week for the entire time period. Contact: Peter Vitali at 203.288.0621 or vitali_peter_e@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, December 18, 2010 111th Annual New Haven Christmas Bird Count

Join other NHBC members in this fun event, steeped in tradition. Participate for a few hours or for the entire day. Results of the count are sent to the National Audubon Society and are included in an international census of early winter bird populations. The compilation dinner, held at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, starts at 5:00 pm. Compiler: Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508, closcalz@optonline.net

Wednesday, January 5, 2011, 9:30 am (Note later start time) First Wednesday Walk: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport

Enjoy this mid-week trip to a great birding spot on Long Island Sound. We will look on the Sound for loons, goldeneye, grebes, and sea ducks. In the park's fields and trees, we may find Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, sparrows, and crossbills. Meet at the main parking lot in the park. (Note the later start time that will help us avoid commuter traffic). Co-leaders for this walk will be AJ Hand & Tina Green. Contact: Tina Green: 203.247.2660, tina@renaissancestudios.com

Sunday, January 16, 2011, 7:30 am Stratford/Milford Birding Tour

Join us as we visit the marshes and beaches in Stratford and Milford. We'll be looking for sea ducks, gulls, raptors, and shorebirds. Meet at the commuter lot on Schoolhouse Road in Milford just south of Exit 35 on I-95. Leader: Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508, closcalz@optonline.net

Saturday, January 29, 2011, 8:00 am Hammonasset State Park, Madison

Join us on a visit to this prime CT birding location for a mid-winter excursion. We will be looking for sea ducks, shorebirds,

grassland species, and winter finches. Notable sightings from last year's trip were Great Horned and Barred Owls, Sanderlings and Ruddy Turnstones, pipits, and dozens of Yellow-rumped Warblers. We will check out the entire park, including the campgrounds area. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot at Meig's Point. Leader: Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508, closcalz@optonline.net

Wednesday, February 2, 2011, 8:00 am First Wednesday Walk: Hammonasset State Park, Madison

Join us on this mid-week visit to one of the area's most outstanding birding locations. We will look for sea ducks, grassland species, and rarities (and any of the birds sighted on the past Saturday's trip). Meet at the park entrance (I-95, Exit 62). Leader: Greg Hanisek. Contact: Tina Green: 203.247.2660, tina@renaissancestudios.com

Saturday, February 12, 2011, 8:00 am Connecticut River Valley and Eastern Shore

Meet at the entrance to Hammonasset State Park (I-95 Exit 62) in Madison. We'll search the shore from Madison to the Connecticut River Lower Valley for wintering shorebirds and hawks as well as the trip specialty, eagles. Please bring a spotting scope if you have one. Co-leaders: Arne Rosengren: 203.248.2903 & Nancy Rosenbaum: 203.288.8997, nancy.rosenbaum@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, February 26, 2011, 7:00 am Sachuest Point NWR and Rhode Island Coast

This all-day trip includes stops at Sachuest Point, Beavertail State Park, Moonstone Beach, and Trustum Pond, all superb Rhode Island birding locations. We should see grebes, loons, scoters, eiders, Purple Sandpipers, and lots of Harlequin Ducks. We'll look for alcids, gannets, rare gulls, and waterfowl. Dress warmly—it's cold and windy on the coast. The hiking is a bit strenuous in places. Bring lunch and a spotting scope if you have one. Meet at the Branford commuter lot at Exit 55, I-95. We carpool from there. Leader: Chris Loscalzo: 203.389.6508, closcalz@optonline.net

Wednesday, March 2, 2011, 8:00 am First Wednesday Walk: Sikorsky Airport & Great Meadows, Stratford

Join us on a visit to this fine birding area. We will meet at the Long Beach parking lot and bird the marsh and beach and then

Sunday, March 20, 2011, 8:00 am
Southwest Connecticut Coast

visit Sikorsky Airport and Frash Pond. We'll look for sea birds such as Long-tailed Duck and scoters, as well as raptors and shorebirds. Directions: Follow signs to Sikorsky Airport from Exit 30 off I-95. Go past the airport entrance and follow the causeway to the end. Take the first right onto Oak Bluff Avenue and follow it to the entrance of Long Beach. Leader: Scott Kruitbosch. Contact: Tina Green: 203.247.2660, tina@renaissancestudios.com

Welcome spring today by birding some of the state's coastal hot-spots. We'll explore the various habitats of Stratford's shoreline in search of raptors, ducks, gulls, and early migrants. Time permitting, we may also visit surrounding towns. We'll finish by noon or 1:00 pm. Carpooling is encouraged, Meet at Sikorsky Airport, Stratford (in parking lot for main terminal off Rte. 113). Leader: Frank Mantlik: 203.984.9410, mantlik@sbcglobal.net

Lighthouse Point Park (LPP) Hawkwatch Summary

We had a tremendous effort of over 650 coverage hours. We tallied 15,113 diurnal raptors - our best total since the 2004 season! Sharpies and Kestrels rebounded a bit. Coops and Red-shoulders were highest since those peak 1990-1994 years. We took care to ignore the locals, but still had an all-time LPP record Peregrine count. The others (eg., Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed, Merlin) were within the previous 5 year average and standard deviation.

Here's a partial summary. There's a lot more LPP data at the HawkCount web site as well as excellent trending charts at the Raptor Population Index (RPI) site. Just "Google" them and follow the "drop-downs."

	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG
2010	1	388	1036	99	549	6528	1580	13	365	831	740	1	7	1790	374	191
2009	6	314	963	150	330	5322	1227	7	232	1652	579	1	9	1311	343	145
2008	2	720	1810	155	342	4229	1160	3	176	401	757	1	4	855	326	183

Here's a run-down of the season, by-month:

August (Kingbird Season): Bill Banks noted 3 Osprey high above LPP heading west on July 30th. Things started up in earnest, late August. Dana Campbell had our first Red-headed Woodpecker (8/20). On 8/30, an Olive-sided Flycatcher stayed teed-up in "the Flicker tree" for 30 minutes. Greg Hanisek also had 4 Purple Finch, 3 Dickcissel and a Red-breasted Nuthatch that clear, hot day (there were many more of each of these birds, to follow).

September (Hummingbird Season): Monarch Butterflies covered the butterfly garden, earlier in the month and later, the Green Darner and Black Saddlebag numbers actually made hawk counting difficult. On 9/6, 2,300 Bobolink and 34 Ruby-throated hummingbirds were among the migrants. Chickadees began to build up. The Migration Festival was a huge success. We actually had hawks (288 total) stopping by as well as many old friends, including "founders" Marjorie Pitcher and Richard Bernard. September ended with some summery, stormy days and fewer hawks.

October (Finch Season): 10/3 brought steady NNE winds, a fleeting glimpse of a Yellow-headed Blackbird, and 1,083 hawks. There were 596 hawks (and many warblers) the following day, in spite of day-long showers. Bill Banks and Greg Hanisek retreated to their cars and communicated the passing of migrants with hand signals! On 10/9 a Peregrine grabbed a Blue Jay in front of the watchers. Dana Campbell tallied 1,015 hawks that

day. On 10/13, Lynn James and Robin McAlister had a Raven, one of several seen at the Park this season. A Cattle Egret flew over Randy Domina and crew, on 10/19. And the House Finches kept pouring through, along with smaller but impressive numbers of Purple Finch, Pine Siskin and American Goldfinch. On 10/29, Dana Campbell had 8600 Robins go over, along with a Cave Swallow. At the end of the day, a pale, dark-winged passerine alighted on the nearby utility pole and immediately started bobbing. Northern Wheatear! Halloween brought a strange 5K Road race, some very interesting swallows (13 Cave, 1 late Barn, 1 No. Rough-winged, 2 Tree) to the Park. A Lincoln's Sparrow lingered at the butterfly garden.

November (Grackle Season): November 7 started with a beautiful dawn, NW winds and 57,700 Common Grackles. It ended with Steve Mayo watching an amazing pale-blue Peregrine harassing a Northern Harrier for an eternity (3 minutes). In between, the gang tallied 5 Goshawks. The Grackle show continued two days later, with Bill Banks and Don Morgan logging 49,000. Lynn James found a couple of Red Bats migrating on 11/10 and Steve Foisey and other subsequent compilers had them again during the week. We celebrated a LPP all-time record November count at the gala year-end picnic, November 27.

December (Ice Falcon Season): Ten total hawks (alas, no Gyrfalcon). We can't wait to see you at LPP next August. Bring your sunscreen and mosquito repellent

--Steve Mayo

Welcome to these new members!

Glen Cummings
96 Killdeer Rd.
Hamden, CT 06517
203.288.6507
gmc2@comcast.net

Glenn Davis
192 Rte. 165
Preston, CT 06365
869.887.9957

Jeffrey Keane
2113 Town Walk Dr.
Hamden, CT 06518
203.710.2737
jkeane1@aol.com

Andrea Kerin
49 Fanton Hill Rd.
Weston, CT 06883
203.254.1290
andrea@kerin.com

Meg Kilgore
42 Turtle Bay Dr.
Branford, CT 06405
203.415.1571
megkilgore@sbcglobal.net

Heide Mizak
60 Pinney St. - Unit 150
Ellington, CT 06029
860.454.0135
heidemizak@yahoo.com

Tisa Wenger & Jordan Groff
566 Shepard Ave.
Hamden, CT 06514
203.287.9934
tisawenger@gmail.com

Winter Feeder Survey 2010 -2011 - November Report

The Winter Feeder Survey 2010-2011 started on Monday, November 1st. We have 25 participants, 7 using regular mail and 18 using email. Of the 18, 12 have responded during the first two weeks. I do not expect to hear from the participants using regular mail until after the 5th week. So far we have 20 species of birds reported and 6 species of animals reported. November seems to be a month that certain species of birds that remain in the area congregate in large flocks and descend on feeders. At the end of week one Gary Lemmon reported: "On at least two days this past week we had way over 2,000 C Grackles, Red-winged BB, E Starlings and some Cow birds all over our yard and my neighbor's yard. These were the days they had big flights at LHPP." Most of the large reporting happened after the first week and by the end of the second week the numbers were back to around normal. Also after week one a new participant Deborah Johnson had to revise her count up by one Broad Wing Hawk and down by one Rock Dove: "forgot today's excitement with b.w. hawk & the pigeon feathers all over the driveway." Another new participant, Maris Fiondella reported: "its fun."

--Pete Vitali

Fargeorge Preserve Field Trip Report

On a sunny Sunday, November 7, 26 people visited Fargeorge Preserve. We saw 48 species, and the highlight was a Pine Siskin that posed for pictures. The good folks at the New Haven Land Trust continue to maintain their new trails. The following is a list of bird species seen or heard: Canada Goose, American Black Duck, Mallard, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Double-crested Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, American Woodcock, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Downey Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fisk Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Yel-



Pine Siskin
Photo by Mike Horn

low-rumped Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Pine Siskin, House Sparrow

--Mike Horn

Fork-Tailed Flycatcher

November and December have been spectacular times for wandering rarities. Especially fabulous was the prolonged stay of the Fork-Tailed Flycatcher, a vagrant from South America which was seen well by many birders from Connecticut and beyond. Many thanks to the Cove Island Sanctuary in Stamford, Connecticut for hosting and allowing so many to see this beautiful rarity.



Fork-tailed Flycatcher
Photo by Pete Vitali

Evergreen Cemetery Field Trip Report

On October 17, a beautiful fall morning, about 15 people went looking for birds in Evergreen Cemetery and visit some former members of the NHBC. We started by walking along the edge of the pond that borders Ella Grasso Blvd. Several species of sparrows were seen including Song, Field, and Savannah. As we continued around the pond, we would also find White-throated and Swamp Sparrows. There are only a couple places where you can get a good view of the pond through the phragmites. Once we got to one of these places, we could see Double-crested Cormorants diving for fish. A Belted Kingfisher was working the pond for a morning meal. As we made our way into the cemetery proper, we caught a Red-breasted Nuthatch flying by and a Great Egret going over the pond. There were several Yellow-rumped Warblers flying around with one Black-and-white Warbler mixed in.

Once inside the cemetery, the activity quieted down. The first interesting sound we had was actually from a pet bird that was in a house abutting the cemetery. Since we couldn't add that to our official list, we decided to find some wild birds instead. In the old Mapledale section of the cemetery we found many Dark-eyed Juncos along with American Robins, and a Northern Mockingbird. A Chipping Sparrow was mixed in with the juncos.

Moving into the original boundary of the Evergreen Cemetery, we found many of the same species we'd seen earlier in the morning. As we got to the center of the cemetery, we made it under large White Oak that was filled with birds. Among the new birds in the big oak were Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Brown Creeper. We ended up having four raptors as fly-overs – Osprey, Northern Harrier, Merlin, and Sharp-shinned Hawk.



Katherine and Philip English - Jun 71



Ray Schwartz



Margaret Tullock - 1921



Nathan Stone Nathan - 1924

Throughout the walk, I reintroduced those in attendance with several of our former members including Philip and Katherine

English (first Life Members and parents of Richard English), Ray Schwartz (member 1980-1999), Margaret Tullock (NHBC President 1929-1931), and Nathan Stone (founder of Stone School of Business).

Species – Total: 41 – Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Canada Goose, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Merlin, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, and American Goldfinch.

--John Triana

Bombay Hook NWR Trip Report

Six NHBC participants took part in the November 2010 fieldtrip to Bombay Hook NWR, Eastern Neck Island NWR, Little Creek-Port Mahon and birds

observed in transit between sites. There were 90 Species in total. The weather was warm and clear all 4 days with mosquitoes rampant. We saw lots of totally habituated Foxes, a bat of unknown species, and big striped bass rolling in the Delaware marshes.



Greater Snow Geese
Photo by Mike Horn

We also got a good look at crescent Venus in the Eastern Sky just before dawn. And.....The food was great....especially the crab cakes.

ALSO: we recorded and turned in 7 Greater Snow Goose Collars. They were from as far away as Bylot Island Refuge at the Northeast tip of Baffin Island

--Mike Horn

Hammonasset Trip Report

On the chilly and windy but mostly sunny day of October 23, 27 participants found 50 species with leader Arne Rosengren. Some highlights of the morning were: a Northern Goshawk flying near the nature center and a flying American Bittern (at the small marsh across from the nature center), a Merlin and a male American Kestrel, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Brown Creeper, and two Gray Catbirds. Only one shorebird was spotted, a Killdeer, and only one individual of each of the kinglet species appeared; but sparrows were well represented, with 8 species including five White-crowns.

--Flo McBride

NHBC Newsletter December 2010

Email Extras: Photos by Mike Horn from Hammonasset Trip October 23



Song Sparrow



Black-capped Chickadee



Red-breasted Nuthatch



Yellow-rumped Warbler



Monarch Butterfly

NHBC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Area Code / Phone _____

Email _____

(Please print clearly in block letters)

____ New Member ____ Renewal

Membership Levels (check appropriate category):

____ \$15 for individual ____ \$50 Supporting

____ \$20 for family ____ \$5 student under 18

____ \$300 for life for 1 or 2 people at same address

____ Gift Membership for any of above levels. We'll

send a notice telling recipient that the gift is from

(your name): _____

Make check payable to New Haven Bird Club and
send to: New Haven Bird Club, PO Box 9004,
New Haven CT 06532-0004

All contributions are tax-deductible. If your employer
gives matching grants, please take advantage of the
offer. It's free and it helps NHBC's program budget.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

*The date on address labels is **your membership expiration**.*

TO RENEW your membership, use the form to the left.
Please check that this is a renewal.

TO JOIN NHBC, use the same form. Indicate New Member.

GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP: Fill out the form and list the
name of the gift-giver. We will notify the recipient of your gift.

MOVING? The post office does not forward bulk mail. If you
move, we will not know it unless you notify us of your new
address as well as your new phone and email if they change.
Send that information to the Club address given on the form
to the left or contact the Membership Chair, Betty Zuraw:
bzfeathers@sbcglobal.net or 860.632.1156.

CT Daily Report A daily electronic report of rare and uncom-
mon bird sightings in CT may be obtained by checking this
website for directions on subscribing: <http://lists.ctbirding.org/mailman/listinfo/ctbirds_lists.ctbirding.org>
ctbirds is an open discussion email list that posts members'
unedited comments on birds and birding in CT.

NHBC website: www.newhavenbirdclub.org